SOUTH VIET NAM
MAYO-JUNIO 1970

1969 - YEAR OF GREAT, ALL-ROUND, STEADY SUCCESSES OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET NAM

Bellicose in nature, the Nixon Administration throughout 1969 persisted in its obdurate and wicked design. While hypocritically calling for "peace" and "negociation" it did its best to prolong and intensify the war of aggression by, to borrow its own terms, "Vietnamizing" it. In trying to replace American blood with Vietnamese blood and dispensing millions of tons of explosive and noxious chemicals, the US aggressors hope to create for themselves a "position of strength" in order to get the better of the South Vietnamese people. Yet, the situation last year was a great disappointment to the American gun and blood dealers.

Throughout the year, they were attacked without let-up, sustaining severe setbacks, whereas the South Vietnamese people recorded one victory after another, all of them very big, all-round and steady.

The people's war developed vigorously, with the rational use and successful combination of all the three kinds of the people's armed forces, who employed with success many new tactics and fought with greatly increased efficiency both the US forces -- and the puppet army in all the three strategic regions and both inside and outside their bases, while seeking to frustrate the enemy in his "pacification" program. As a result, the US aggressors received very heavy blows in their "Vietnamization" effort.

In their offensive posture and strong with their valour, the South Vietnamese people and the PLAF launched big attacks which were all richly awarded, thus successively foiling the various plans of the US aggressors, in spite of the enemy's concentrated efforts and criminal war moves.

As for the US-puppets, for all their 3-ring defence system, their sudden raids and long-range operations, they were quite helpless in face of the irresistible onslaughts of the liberation forces.

1969 saw four successive PLAF campaigns on all the fronts with the PLAF opening up against over 6,000 objectives, many of them coming under fire as many as 10, or even 20 times. Some 645,000 US, puppet and satellite troops were put out of action.

While the enemy endeavour to defend their hideouts and push the war away from the towns, the people's forces continuously hammered at him in some 100 regimental, brigade or divisional headquarters, 85 district or provincial administrative centres, 45 cities of provincial capitals, 50 airbases, and many important logistical complexes.

Of the very large quantity of war means in reserve destroyed by the PLAF were 6,400 aircraft, 10,000 vehicles, 1,700 war vessels, 500 big guns, and 900 storages. As compared with - 1968, the enemy lost 7% more in war planes, 7% more in ships. Their big gun losses even doubled.

The enemy could not "sweep" away the PLAF, not even the militia and guerilla forces, who were smart enough to inflict on them 59% of their total losses in live force in the year.

Neither could the US troops "hold" their ground. They were wiped out not only on their territory but also on the various communication lines and other battlefields chosen by the PLAF, like the valleys of Que Son and Tan Canh.

Puppet troops, with better equipment and training received through the "Vietnamization" program and bigger US fire support, were cut into ribbons, like in Tan Canh and the Mekong Delta. It is thus obvious that there were very few pegs left on which to hang the hope of the US to cut the American casualty rate or to put into practice Laird's "Asian theory".

So, both the US forces and the puppet army took hard beatings, losing a great part of their treasured live force. Meanwhile, the creative PLAF were very successful in their actions in which, whatever the number of men they fielded, they always took a heavy toll of the enemy's lives. Altogether, over 2,000 US officers or technicians were wiped out - more than 500 of them in the Cam Ranh military port along, during a surprise attack by a small force of the PLAF. In terms of units, the PLAF destroyed or heavily decimated 5 brigades, one regiment, 3 multibattalion units, 122 battalions, and about 900 companies, of the US-puppets. Heavy losses in lives and material were inflicted on the Americal, the Air Cav. and the 25th Infantry Division of the US, and the 23rd, 21st, 18th, 17th and 1st Divisions, and the airborne, marine and ranger forces of the puppets.

The PLAF always took the initiative. In their serialized attacks early in the year, the liberation forces mainly aimed at the middle ring of enemy defence where most of the enemy force was committed. Later, they tackled the outering defences and other key targets, while decoying the enemy to pre-arranged battlefields and opening up in all the three strategic regions, making it very hard for the enemy to protect himself. In the U Minh jungle area where he deployed as many as 15 battalions, the enemy lost more than 600 lives. In Bu Prang area, he took more than 1,000 casualties despite a force of 20 battalions committed to the Duc Lap - Bu Prang front. During their headlong flight from Que Son valley, the US aggressors felt behind over 300 of their killed troops.

Very great successes were recorded in foiling the enemy's "pacification" program and in enlarging the liberated one. The PLAF and people blazed away at 95% of the district towns, townlets and military sub-sectors, and over 900 posts and other minor military positions, disbanding 130 "pacification" teams, wiping out 18,000 cruel enemy agents, and razing more than 700 "strategic hamlets" and other concentration camps.

Under the impact of the PLAF and people's offensive, desertions, revolts and mutinies involving whole platoons or companies occurred at a greater frequency among the puppet army. According to still incomplete statistics, a total of 190,000 puppet troops deserted, or mutinied before crossing over to the Revolution in 1969. Indiscriminate, forcible induction partly accounted for the all-time low morale of the puppet troops and for repatriation as well as desertions are growing. There were demonstrations involving dozens of thousands of privates and even many officers, in support of the various peace campaigns back in the States. Not a small number of GI's sought civilian jobs in South Viet Nam after running away from their units.

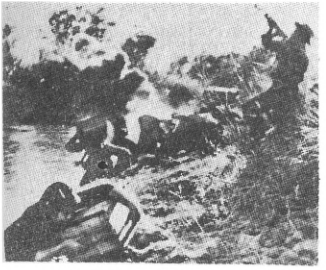
In a word, the PLAF last year applied many new, effective tactics, and there were improvements in their operational and strategic guidance. The destruction of enemy live force and material was carried out at a big rate. All the military plans of the enemy were shattered. The oftrepeated claims of "a lull on the battlefield", "lower American casualty rate" and "light losses of the ARVN" were but psywar propaganda meant to hoodwink the public.

In addition to the big military successes, the people's political struggle steadily gained momentum. The people's role as master of their destiny, expressed in a variety of forms, was strengthened.

Great progress was made in building the new life in the liberated zone, as can be seen from good production and successful education and cultural work. The people's timely, plentiful contribution in manpower and material to the front assured a sustained, victorious fight. Popular power was consolidated at both central and grassroots levels.

In the towns, the struggle for better living, democracy, neutrality and peace drew in large sections of the population, whereas the puppet ranks were beset with strifes, and the isolation and weakness of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem trio became even more manifest.

One of the major schemes of the enemy last year was to accelerate the "pacification" which in essence was to resort to more atrocious war methods to win and pen in the population in order to re-establish his control over areas where it had been broken.



To maintain their power, the people combined political struggle with armed attacks, punishing enemy agents and resisting repression. To shirk slave labour imposed upon them, the -- people in contested areas would try to get together in one place and refused to budge an inch, from it. Those living under direct enemy occupation would seek ways and means to do their share in the national-wide resistance, sending --- their children to the front, raising funds for the Revolution, or volunteering as war suppliers.

Concerted popular uprisings broke out one after another in many villages, districts or provinces, adding new territories to the liberated zone. Altogether 515,000 people rose in Central Trung Bo last year, and 220,000 of them were at last liberated from the enemy grip.

The people's power, firmly established, exerted a great influence even on areas still under enemy control. The Congress of the South Viet Nam People's Representatives and the establishment thereafter of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam marked a new development and a victory of the South Vietnamese revolution.

People's power has been set up so far in 81% of the villages, 60% of the districts, and 97% of the provinces of South Viet-Nam. In other places, the puppet administration only exists for the form.

The people's struggle in the towns although not so stirring as in 1968, was carried on with great resolve, and marked a good progress in quality, with growing demands for better living conditions, democracy, peace, a popular government, the pullout of US troops, and against economic exploitation, repression, and military service. Workers struck again and again, and the struggle against heavy "austerity taxes" --- drew in many forms from the business circles, the puppet - army, and even the Saigon Congress. As a result, the Tran Van Huong cabinet was toppled. The present Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta is in a tough spot.

Peace and neutrality have won the hearts of many people. Political groupings have made their appearance and are - working against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem trio, thus rendering - more acute the conflict among the ruling junta.

The US has failed in its attempt to build a political --- backing for Thieu-Ky-Khiem. The enemy's rear area is now in a chaos, while revolutionary political organizations and - armed units are operating in strength. Those areas where - the people have set up their own power are consolidating.

The revolutionary administration continues giving land to the tillers. So far, over 2 million hectares have been divided among the peasantry, who, glad with their gains, are enthusiastically stepping up production and promoting the collective mode of work.

A major victory of the South Vietnamese people came early in 1969 when the US Government was compelled to recognize the role of the NFL - and later, that of the RSVN Provisional - Revolutionary Government - as the legitimate representative of the people at the Paris Conference. The Front's reasonable and fair 10-point overall solution won the sympathy and support of broad sections of the world public, and was recognized as the correct basis for the political settlement of the South Viet Nam issue. The US did not succeed in its -- attempt to turn the Paris Conference into a stage for its political machinations.

On the contrary, the US-puppets were condemned ever more - strongly for their obstinacy, immorality and ferocity, while the progressive people of the United States and the world's peoples saw more and more clearly the justness of the South-Vietnamese people's fight, hence their stronger support for it.

Sterner condemnation was also raised against the Nixon Administration's pious claim for "peace", its "Vietnamization" policy, as well as its troop withdrawals in dribblets. The savage crimes perpetrated by the aggressors in Son My and other parts of South Viet Nam aroused boiling indignation from the world's peoples. The world front against US aggression was never so broad, and its actions were never so resolute.

By the millions, Americans, including many from the political circles, took to the streets during the three Moratorium Days late in 1969, to protest their Government's war, and demand the return of GI's in South Viet Nam and an end to the war useless and costly to them. Resolutions were adopted by many international meetings, all condemning the US war and voicing support for the people of South Viet Nam. The Governments and peoples of the socialist countries and many other countries gave valuable support to the people of South Viet Nam, both morally and materially.

In the international arena, the prestige of the NFL and the RSVN PRG was greatly enhanced. So far, 25 countries have - recognized the PRG, and many others have decided to establish diplomatic relations with it. The many visits paid to the various countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the participation in many international congresses, by delegations of the NFL, the RSVN PRG and South Vietnamese mass organizations in 1969 further cemented the militant solidarity between the South Vietnamese people and the peoples and governments of many countries in the world.

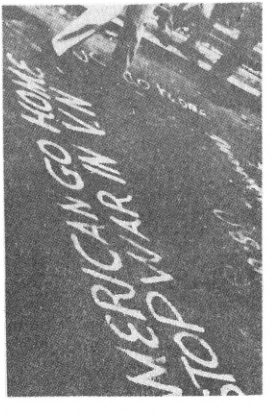
1969 was thus a year of bitter drawbacks to the US imperialists and their lackeys both in the world and in South Viet-Nam.

Looking back upon the past year, the people and PLAF of South Viet Nam greatly rejoice at their great achievements.

This year, fired by their previous successes, they will be more resolved to make greater exploits, acting upon the - NFL Central Committee's call for greater unity, sharper - vigilance, and higher perseverance in the war of resistance - on both the military, political and diplomatic --- planes - to defeat the US war of aggression, and to force the complete withdrawal of the aggresors and the stepping down of the puppets, first of all to foil the "Vietnamization" plan, destroy more live force and war materials of the enemy, shatter his"accelerated pacification" program, and step up the struggle for better living and democracy in the towns, while defending and enlarging the liberated zone, developing guerilla warfare, building up the PLAF --- and the political forces, and promoting production.

This resolve the people of South Viet Nam will maintain -- till the winning of complete victory.

Vu Ba



PLAF IMPORTANT VICTORIES IN 1969

(Excerpts of PLAF Command Communiqué of December 31, 1969)

1- 1969 was the year when the PLAF continued to maintain and - develop their offensive and recorded very big victories.

The US aggressors did their best to beef up their defence ---- through most brutal war manoeuvres, especially by increasing their fire power and using B-52 bombers and toxic chemicals on the highest level so far. However, with their high -- determination to fight and to win, the South Viet Nam armed armed forces and people unremittingly promoted their generalized offensives and uprisings and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

The main force, regional army and guerillas, last year powerfully and accurately hit a series of nerve organs, combat units, rear bases, airfields, storages and land and water supply lines of the enemy, wiping out many more enemy troops than in 1968. For all their precautions and defensive measures, the enemy losses in both big and small size units were on the upgrade.

2- 1969 was a year of repeated and persistent offensive by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, marking a new step forward on the generalized offensive and uprising movement. In effect, not a month passed without the enemy taking serious beating. This demonstrate the quick growth of the PLAF, their efficacious performance on all the three areas - the plains, mountainous areas and towns- and capacity for a sustained ---- fight and for defeating completely the US aggressors in any - eventuality.

3- 1969 was a year of all-round offensives and all-round victories of the PLAF and people on the military, political and diplomatic fronts. Besides the brilliant military victories, 1969 saw a political event of tremendous importance for our people: the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of - the Republic of South Viet Nam.

The ten-point overall solution advanced by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation lent more lustre to the justice of our people's fight against US aggression and their goodwill for peace. This solution has enjoyed approval and support from the people throughout Viet Nam and the people throughout the world.

1969 was marked by a great loss for the Vietnamese people with the passing away of President Ho Chi Minh. Contrary to the illusory hope of the US imperialists who predicted some decline in the combat morale of our people following this grievous happening, our people and armed forces throughout the country have turned grief into revolutionary deeds and dashed forward with a firm determination to carry out the President Ho's Testament.

4- The big and all-round victories of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in 1969 were a stinging blow dealt at the US and puppets' "Vietnamization" of the war manoeuvre.

Far from realizing their scheme to reduce GI casualties in order to appease public opinion in the US which is demanding an end to the US aggression and immediate US troop pull-out, the US - aggressors took greater casualties in 1969 than 1968.

MILITARY BALANCE OF 1969
(incomplete statistics)

- 645,000 enemy troops, including 235,000 GI's and satellite - troops wiped out, wounded or captured (as against 630,000 and 230,000 in 1968 respectively).

- 5 brigades, 1 regiment, 3 multi-battalion units, 122 battalions, 130 "pacification" teams and nearly 900 companies of the US and puppets wiped out or decimated.

- A huge quantity of weapons, ammunition, war materials and -- equipment destroyed, including 6,400 aircraft of various types, 19,000 military vehicles (10,000 tanks and armoured cars), 2,500 cannons and heavy mortars (more than double the 1968 figure), 1,700 warships and combat launches (nearly twice as in 1968), 900 ammunition and fuel depots.

They hoped to make up for their sinking moral by a massive -- increase of weapons and war means but the fact is that more and more US weapons and war means have been destroyed.

The "accelerated pacification" plan considered by the US as the backbone of their "Vietnamization" of the war scheme has been foiled and heading for complete failure.

Many areas formerly regarded as "secure" for the US have come under repeated attacks. The more they spread their forces, the harder the US and puppets were hit by the liberation forces - and people who are determined to wipe them out chunk by chunk.

The US aggressors wanted to beef up the puppet army and send them out to die in the place of the GI's but the puppet troops have taken ever heavier losses.

They wanted to consolidate the puppet administration and rally the reactionary political parties to build a political prop, but this administration was rent by deeper and deeper conflicts and is isolated more than ever before.

5- The victories of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in 1969 have shaken even the rear base of the US aggressors.

Despite all the perfidious manoeuvres of Nixon to appease and deceive the American people, the movement of the progressive - people in the United States for a halt to the US aggression and withdrawal of American troops so that the Vietnamese people may settle themselves their internal affairs, is taking such dimensions as never before in the history of the protest movement in the US.

Warmly sympathizing with and supporting the Vietnamese people's great and sacred resistance war, the movement against the US - war has taken place more and more vigorously and violently.The Nixon Administration is facing serious isolation in the United States and the world.

NIXON ON THE TRACK TO HIS DOOM

It is now exactly one year since Richard Nixon came into office, during which time he has never departed from his path of criminal war and met with ever heavier failures.

Not that the US President is ignorant of the fact that he entered the White House after successfully playing upon the weariness of the American people for the war-promoting Administration of Mr. Johnson.
Yet, all along the first year of his office, Mr. Nixon has continually pushed up the war in South Viet Nam, making the prospects for peace now more remote than ever. In the past year, in South Viet Nam there has been a continual prosecution of the -- terror operations, the number of sorties of aircraft of all --- kinds has multiplied monthly, while the area doused with toxic chemicals in high concentration has continued to expand, and -- more mass slayings of the Son My type have occurred.
Faced with the naked cruelty and war intensification acts of -- Nixon, the South Vietnamese people have fought back resolutely and the result, as might be enticipated, is that the death knell continued to ring ever louder in the White House as the casualty rate of the American troops continued to climb instead of being "kept down" as Nixon has piously hoped for.

Nixon has drawn many bright pictures since he launched his "Vietnamization of the war" program.
However, as the US magazine "International Herald Tribune" noted on November 8, 1969:" Mr. Nixon's Vietnamization of the war policy is based on the assumption that the present Saigon Government would grow stronger while the adversary continues to weaken and melt away. This hypothesis has been proven false on more than -- one occasion".
Nixon is stubbornly nurturing the dream of "Vietnamizing" the -- war, ballyhooing the progress of this program with a view to -- appeasing American opinion and also to easing up the financial - pressure created by the burdensome war machine. To give substance to this imaginary "progress", Nixon decided to pull out - some American units. He hoped thereby to demonstrate his "good will" for peace!
However, the American people and the people of the whole world have not let themselves be duped. Over the past year they have waged a resolute struggle to demand Nixon to end the aggressive war, withdraw all and without condition the American troops .../

and troops of US satellites from South Viet Nam so that the --- internal affairs of South Viet Nam be settled by the South -- Vietnamese people themselves without foreign intervention.

It is public knowledge that "Vietnamization of the war" as - conceived by Nixon, means to continue the war of aggression and drag on the US military occupation of South Viet Nam in the form of a neo-colony. US Senator Mc Govern has declared that: "instead of Vietnamizing the war, let us first seek to Vietnamize the South Viet Nam (puppet) "government" of the warlike, rotten Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta set up by the US itself to serve as a tool and kept in power by US dollars and weapons. Nixon obstinately sticks to this set of hired soldier while the population of South Viet Nam towns and cities are waging an unremitting -- struggle to overthrow them and establish a peace-restoring cabinet. Due to the US acts of war intensification and stubborn --- attitude in the settlement of the South Viet Nam problem, the - Paris Conference on Viet Nam could not yet move off dead centre after more than fifty sessions.

Nixon's records in the past year, if any, consist in taxing his mind to prepare high-sounding speeches coined in vague terms -- designed to fool public opinion as he did in his State of the - Union message on January 24. Such displays of rhetoric are aimed at playing upon the national sentiments of the American people, inciting them with such deceptions as "a simple withdrawal means a US surrender", "the Vietnamese cannot humiliate America" or - "we are prepared to withdraw in honour", and the like.
Denis W. Brogan, Professor of Politics at the Cambridge University, remarked that all the honour and prestige that the US may lose has been lost. And sober-minded people in the American political circles unanimously hold that should the US withdraw its troops totally from South Viet Nam, and end the dirty war, ---- Washington will be able to regain its prestige, restore the --- psychological balance, ease up the deep split in the American - policy, put the American economy on the right track again by -- diverting the huge sums alloted to the Viet Nam war to the domestic needs. By so doing, it will also relieve hundreds of thousands of American families of the anguish of war. And naturally, all questions concerning the relations between South Viet Nam and the United States will also be satisfactorily solved, one by one.

Should Nixon refuse to head reason and plunge headlong in his criminal venture, he would certainly meet with an even more -- ignominious failure than Johnson did. And it is also safe to say that the American people could not reconcile themselves to be ruled by a President who, in one year of his office, has -- only prosecuted the war, increased their suffering and thrown the American society into greater chaos.

For their part, the South Vietnamese people have long made clear their position: they are determined, now as before, to continue the fight until the US aggressors have quitted and the puppets toppled, until genuine independence, freedom and peace are won back. This determination cannot be shaken by any manoeuvre of the aggressors, be it "Vietnamization" or "Americanization".

Truong Van Xe

A MODEL COMMANDER

Editor's Note -
25 year-old Le Xuan Sinh, PLAF deputy-battalion commander, has - set a shining example for the young generation on the front. For his rare valour and extraordinary feats he has, in the seven - years in the army, been thrice awarded the Liberation Exploit - Order, and many tiemes the "Valiant Fighter" title.
Follows a condensation of his story by Phem Hoi and Ho Hai. Sinh was newly decorated "PLAF Hero".

Le Xuan Sinh has built a solid name for himself, with his courage, hardworkingness and combat skill. In 1962, hardly a month in the army, he was rated excellent in practice firing. Ever since, he has joined virtually in all the combats.Eleven times wounded, he has not once abandoned his post. To fight the aggressors, for -- him, is his sole raison d'être, his greatest happiness in life.

He first distinguished himself in Cha Do late in 1966. The attack had hardly begun when he, then deputy-platoon leader, was hit in his left shoulder with a shrapnel. The company commander advised him to leave, but he asked to stay. "This is my first try at the Yanks", he said.

The platoon leader was killed. He was stunned for a moment by the loss of his comrade. Then, the need to fill the gap prompted him to dash ahead of his men. Directly taking charge of a fire group, he blasted a breach in the enemy perimeter and led his men in.
A hidden enemy machine gun was firing viciously at the attackers. Sinh plunged into a bomb crater to cut short the distance between him and the enemy gun, and nearly disposed of the latter with a grenade.

A bullet came to bury itself in his right arm; but he felt almost no pain, obsessed, as he was, with the thought of how to carry - through the attack before dawn. Soon afterwards, both the machine gunner and anti-tanker were injured. He took up the abandoned guns and, resting his back against a tree, fired them alternately till the last counter-attack by the enemy was repulsed.

The men had left the mountains far behind, and now offered to their view was the immense flat land, that stretched away to the horizon. Wind was the sovereign here.
Sinh took off his sandals and set down on one of the narrow path-ways among the field.

Just before dusk, the fighters began cutting across the fields toward their target, a US cantonment. They moved so lightly that hardly a ripple appeared on the uniform carpet of golden rice - above them. A score of yards from the enemy, they could discern a row of tents and a few GI's smoking to while away the time.

At 2 a.m., the attack began. The bazookas blazed away at the -- tents, setting all on fire. Amid the shrieks of fear from the - enemy, Sinh led his men forward. Suddenly, they heard several dull thuds caused by solid objects falling on the ground behind them. No sooner had Sinh and the other fighters thrown themselves upon the ground than a hurricane swept past their back -they had moved too close to the enemy to get hit by the grenades hurled at them.

Sinh fired steadily at the bamboo groves, while his friends unleashed a hailstorm of hand-bombs and grenades on the enemy. They neutralized whatever resistance they met on their way and finally arrived at their assigned target, the artillery site, which they overran after a brief combat.

It was past midnight now. The task of Sinh's unit this time was to smash one of the "steel gates" into Saigon. The unit silently fanned out to encircle the "strategic hamlet".

As soon as PLAF heavy artillery went into action, pounding the - Tan Son Nhut airport and the various enemy strongholds in Saigon's 1st and 2nd precincts, Sinh and his men opened up. The enemy machine gun was blotted out right in the first minute. Sinh, pistol in hand, led his men into the post. From the main building emerged four enemy, all equipped with ultra rapid sub-machine guns. Sinh fired four shots, killing all.

Past the "strategic hamlet", the fighters came upon a road. They went up the road and arrived at a deserted street the houses on either side of which had been destroyed by previous enemy bombardments. All of a sudden, from a half-demolished house on their - left, the enemy fired grenade-launchers and machine guns at them. Sinh has the unit's firepower concentrated on the enemy, and dispatched a group ahead with plastic charges. A moment later, the - enemy resistance pocket went up in flames.

The main body of the enemy ran toward an empty factory. Sinh and his men followed hot upon his track. Inside the factory, however, they lost sight of the enemy. "Some more effort tonight, and a lot of blood may be saved tomorrow".

His suggestion was approved by all. And so he told his men to get moving. His judgement turned out to be correct. At the gate of the second factory, they ran into the enemy. A fierce but brief combat ensued, and the whole enemy company was wiped - out.

In the morning, the battalion commander came to him and shook his hand. "Good, old chap", the former said, smiling broadly. You did the right thing last night".

The rising sun was followed by enemy aircraft of all descriptions, which bombarded the ground without let up. Enemy armour also rumbled into action. Sinh and his men fill their gourds with fresh water in preparation for another hard day.

Two enemy reinforcement battalions came up from the other side of the river, preceded by seven heavy tanks. The vehicles, -- however, did not attempt to cross the bridge. Instead, they - wheeled into combat formation, and fired their cannon and machine guns at the PLAF from far away.

There was no other choice for the enemy infantry but to get on alone, under their officers' prodding. The PLAF waited patiently, and not until they could see the chin straps of the helmets worn by the enemy did they open fire, thus cutting down the latter in heaps.

After each unsuccessful counter-attack by their infantry, the - enemy retaliated with air and artillery strikes. Toward the end of the day, they mustered whatever forces they had in a leave-or-quit combat. Their troops and armour advanced in a compact wave.

Looking at the hardened faces of his comrades at this decisive hour, Sinh found it necessary to give them any encouragement. He only took off a grenade and placed it in front of him. As a supreme order, that was enough. The other fighters reloaded - their guns in a grim determination.

The close combat that followed was very bloody. The proximity of the two sides was such that PLAF men could pick up enemy - grenades and hurl them back at the enemy.

Sinh rose up to his full height and, resting his gun on a tree, fired as he had never fired before.
The fight raged on. The PLAF did not budge an inch. The enemy threw in more force. A bullet lodged itself in Sinh's thigh.

In the searing pain that gripped him, Sinh heard familiar -- battle cries, which swelled and swelled in volume. Friendly units were coming.

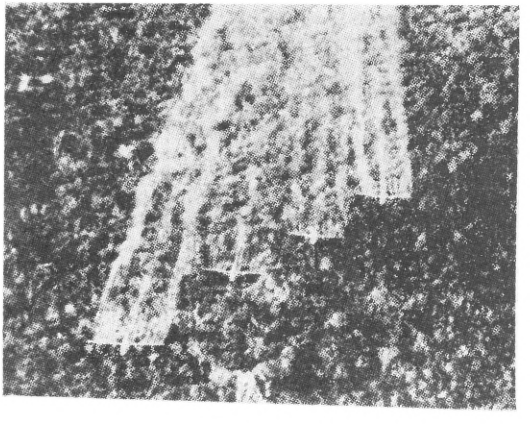
The enemy infantry hastily about, turned and fled. The armoured vehicles wheeled about for a moment, undecided, then took flight too.

With a green branch serving as an improvised crutch, Sinh went about among his men, praising them heartily. His smile was - very contageous.

STATEMENT ISSUED FEBRUARY 14 BY THE SOUTH VIET NAM COMMITTEE TO DENOUNCE THE CRIMES OF THE US IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR HENCHMEN ON THE INTENSIFICATION OF US CHEMICAL WARFARE IN SOUTH VIET NAM

In their aggressive war against South Viet Nam, the US imperialists have stopped at no barbarous manoeuvres and acts. Since 1961, chemical warfare has been waged continuously and systematically and toxic gases and noxious chemicals have been used to kill people, destroy crop and vegetation, cattle and poultry and all sources of supply, create famine, devastate the land its natural resources. Viet Nam has been turned into a testing ground and Vietnamese into guinea pigs for the experimentation of mass destruction weapons by US aggressors who intend to subdue the Vietnamese people.

Since 1963-1964, the US aggressors have been over and over again firing cannon gas shells and releasing gas bombs on villages of Ben Tre, Ca Mau, Phu Yen and Quang Nam provinces. And so far, many gas murders have occurred repeatedly: On January 25, 26 and 27, 1965, more than 80 people were killed



and over 100 others intoxicated at Phu Lac village, Phu Yen -- province. On September 27, 1965, at Vinh Quang hamlet, Tuy --- Phuoc district, Binh Dinh province, US marines ejected 48 containers of toxic gas against the inhabitants of which 35 were killed and 19 seriously intoxicated (among the victims, 28 were children and 26 women). On September 8, 1965, 78 people were - killed and hundreds of others affected at Ba Lang An, Quang -- Ngai province. And on February 12, 1969, 10 people aged 64 to 77 and one pregnant woman were herded into an underground --- shelter and killed by gas grenades.

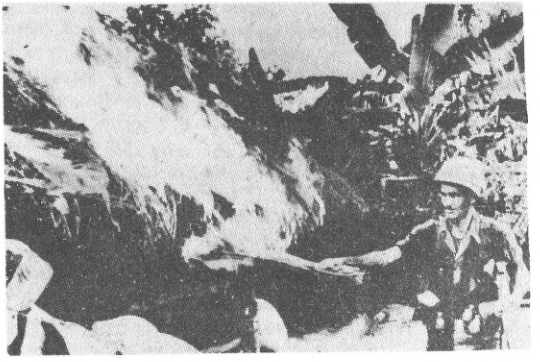
Since Nixon came into power, the use of toxic chemicals has been stepped up. In February 1969, they were used dozens of times at Mount Cocava, Thua Thien province. On March 1969, gas bombs and gas containers were poured on Chau Thanh district, Tay Ninh - province. On May 17, and 18, they were dropped 34 times on -- Mount A Bia, Thua Thien province. On July 18 and 20, noxious - agents and over 100 cannon gas shells were used at Mount Ba - Den, Tay Ninh province, intoxicating thousands of people, many of whom died, 30 babies were killed on the spot, etc...

In order to justify their gruesome crimes, the US aggressors used to argue that they were not lethal but merely "tear gas" with an "irritant" effect, etc.... Furthermore, they cynically../ called them "human weapons". It is noticeable that in an operation October 5, 1965, the US brigade 173 and Australian units were delivered gas masks and Westmoreland gave them permission to use CS and CN gases (AFP, October 10, 1965).

In another raid in Cu Chi district, Gia Dinh province, in -- January 1966, thousands of US, Australian and New Zealand soldiers pumped CN gas mixed with other toxic agents into people's shelters, killing more than 100 persons. Those very agents had killed Robert Bowtell, a 21-year-old Australian, and intoxicated 6 other Australian soldiers, although they all wore gas - masks (Reuter, January 12, 1966).

Those few data suffice to lay bare the brutal and perfidious nature of the US aggressors.

The other toxic chemicals they called "defoliants" and "weed killers" are being used in high concentration with a very high frequency in the same region and on an ever-increasing scale. They are actually becoming toxic chemicals designed to destroy crops and harvests, cattle and poultry, to cut off the population from all sources of supply, and have caused many deaths.



According to preliminary investigation and figures, the quantity of toxic chemicals sprayed was:

1964 2.1 million LITRES

1967 25 " "

1968 37.8 " "

YEAR	HECTARES SPRAYED	NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED
1961 (From August to end of Dec.)	560	80
1962	11,030	1,120
1963	320,000	9,000
1964	500,230	11,000
1965	700,000	146,240
1966	876,490	258,000
1967	908,320	279,700
1968	989,300	302,890

The above mentioned figures suffice to show the US escalation in chemical warfare in South Viet Nam. In particular, since Nixon's inauguration, chemical warfare had been greatly intensified. According to preliminary investigation and data, - during the first 10-month period under Nixon, 905,708 hectares were sprayed and 285,740 people affected. Spraying were focussed on the Mekong Delta and the Trung Bo coastal region, i.e. on very densely populated areas with a view to destroying the source of supply and causing the maximum of deaths.

Toxic chemicals have killed people and seriously impaired the health of the population. Many people affected went blind or deaf, or had their lactation stopped, suffered miscarriage or mental troubles. Several fertile regions turned sterile, - stripped of vegetations. US toxic chemicals have destroyed - jungles, entailed inundations, rendered the soil sterile, - produced changes in weather, polluted water sources, made -- havoc on birds and fish, and may leave severe unpredictable long-range effects.

Never in the history of wars have toxic chemicals been used in so great a quantity and on such a vast scale for so many years running, directed so wantonly against civilians as they are by the US aggressors in South Viet Nam.

In face of ever-increasing public protest against the use of toxic chemicals and noxious gases in South Viet Nam, the US ruling circles have proved more obdurate and trickier. On November 25, 1969, with a view to soothe world opinion, --- Nixon announced that the US would refrain from being the -- first to use lethal chemicals, except to retaliate.

Nevertheless, he added that "tear gases" and "weed killers" were excluded from the ban.

But it is public knowledge that those very products which are largely used in Viet Nam, are very savage weapons being used by US troops in combination with others, to massacre South - Vietnamese people.

In its August 1st, 1969 issue, the New York Times made it - clear that the Pentagon would oppose all disarmament meeting that forced the US to put an end to the use of toxic gases in Viet Nam.

The South Vietnamese people will for ever bear deep hatred for the US aggressors and human history will for ever condemn their abominable crimes.

The South Viet Nam Committee to Denounce the Crimes of the US imperialists and their henchmen energetically denounces to - public opinion at home and abroad, the above mentioned crimes.

We earnestly call upon all Governments and the peoples around the world, all democratic and progressive organizations, all lawyers, scientists, civil-right activists, religious circles to raise their voices and to take concrete actions to stop the bloody hands of the US aggressors, to demand them to put an - end to the chemical warfare and their aggressive war in South Viet Nam, to withdraw promptly, completely and unconditionally the US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, so that the South Vietnamese people may settle themselves their own affairs.

So long as the US imperialists obstinately pursue their aggressive war and perpetrate gruesome crimes against the South Vietnamese people, the latter, with deep hatred, and more united and resolute than ever, will unremittingly carry on their struggle till complete victory to gain independence and freedom for the Fatherland./.

TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY?

Do Xuan Sang

"Vietnamization" said Melvin Laird, "means the progressive - transfer to the South Vietnamese of responsibility for all - aspects of the war and management of their affairs: stronger government, stronger economy, stronger military force, stronger police for internal security."

What has become of all that?

60,000 GI's have left South Viet Nam and in his Dec. 15, 1969 speech, Nixon announced a new 50,000 troops cutback till April 15, 1970. The American units stationed on the edge of the Mekong Delta and along Highway No. 9 are replaced by puppet troops. Here and there, US bases have been handed to the latter in the full glare of publicity. However, at present, nearly 500,000 GI's and over 60,000 foreign mercenaries still remain in South Viet Nam and their strength will be maintained at wellnigh half a million by next April 15. The US expeditionary forces and mercenary troops still make up the main force protecting the puppet army which on paper totals 700,000 men and suffers 10,000 desertions per month on the average. Wherever the puppet troops fight in the frontline, they are badly mauled and have to call GI's to their rescue. Their losses rise from 1 to 3 while American casualties are not kept down.

On the financial plane, the war burden continues to weigh more and more heavily on the shoulders of the American tax-payers. The puppet 1969 budget showed a deficit of over 50 billion - piastres out of an aggregate 130 billion, 118 billion of which (or one billion dollars) accruing from US aid. This means that there is no question of shifting financial responsibility.

Likewise, there is no transfer of diplomatic responsibility. At the Paris Conference, the Saigon delegation made a poor - show as US confederate. Pham Dang Lam did not need to disappear from the political scene like Cabot Lodge and Lawrence Walsh for the Conference to be "downgraded". His return to - Saigon to receive fresh instructions was hardly noticed by - the press.

Was there at least shifting of responsibility for war crimes? Nixon laid the blame for the Son My atrocity on the Democratic administration. But all the crimes perpetrated for a year have borne his stamp: wholesale massacres at Ba Lang An, Kong H'Ring camp, in the "Sea Tiger" operation in 12 villages of - Thang Binh district, and 5 villages of Que Son district, Quang Nam province, over 1.2 million tons of bombs dropped and an - unheard-of intensification of chemical warfare. Who would ---- believe that Thieu could give orders to B-52s to go into --- action and to the US Air Force to fly 11,980 reconnaissance - missions over the DRVN in 1969 or a monthly average of 1,000 sorties, the double of the 1968 figure?

Three Factors of "Vietnamization"

If there is no serious shifting of responsibility, it is simply because none of the three factors hoped for by Laird have been achieved.

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem government has been proclaiming from the housetops that it is strong and controls 95 per cent (why not 100 per cent?) of the South Viet Nam people. A military (Khiem) has replaced a civilian (Tran Van Huong) as Prime Minister and dismissals have been numerous of field officers in the puppet army and officers at the head of provinces and districts. Why, then, on December 20, 1969, that "strong" government deemed it necessary to mastermind a raid on its own Parliament? Saigon MPs are supposed to enjoy constitutional protection but they are not immune from extra-constitutional assault and battery. As has been seen, the government unleashed its men, paid 500 piastres each, against the recalcitrant "Lower House" as a Christmas gift! This "rebellion" of "parliamentarians" has its root in the ultra-fascization of the regime and "austerity" taxes levied by Thieu allegedly to stop inflation and decline of purchasing power of the currency; and all this will probably boomerang on the comprador bourgeoisie, the class of these MPs who do not have the same vested interests in this operation as the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique.

With regard to the puppet army it saw its establishment beefed up in 1969 by the presseganging of all able-bodied men from 17 to 55 living in the areas, still under the US and quislings' control.

Thieu transferred militiamen to civil guard units and the civil guards to the regular army and the trick was done. The pay-sheets of the "Republican divisions" lengthen. On the other - hand, the Yankees supply the armament : 700,000 M. 16s, automatic guns, tanks, ordnance pieces, aircraft, river craft and coast-guard ships, etc.

But what is the combat effectiveness of such an army? The Philadelphia Quakers were of the opinion that "the South Vietnamese forces (puppet army) will never successfully take over the military burden now carried by the US. It is not hardware or training that is lacking in Saigon's armies. It is will, the one ingredient the US will never be able to provide. Thieu's soldiers have no heart for this struggle and have not had any for years. Indeed, one of the most striking phenomena of the war is the contrast between the contending forces: a Vietnamese dressed in the peasant garb of the NLF is one of the --- world's most formidable fighting men, the same in the uniform of Saigon is one of the world's poorest. Why? Because one -- believes he fights to drive the foreigners from his soil while the other fights only to sustain the power of a corrupt military clique. Under these circumstances any hope of simultaneously defeating the NFL and withdrawing US troops has no chance of success".

The Saigon puppet army is the offspring of the Bao Dai army of which the French correspondent Robert Guillain wrote, "The - majority of Bao Dai's subjects lack fighting spirit. The army in which they enlist often against their will is unreliable, so unreliable that our staffs are now afraid that it would - desintegrate by whole units." (Le Monde, May 30 and 31, 1954).

Of course, US methods differ from the French ones. Neo-colonialism is out to stir up the class hatred but this involves only a small minority of high-ranking officers. Soldiers and cadres in lower echelons suffer like the rest of the people from -- terror and repression and the present "accelerated pacification". They have their villages burnt and their families hit by American bombs and shells. Moreover, desertions and mutinies as well as combat fatigue have emasculated the puppet - army to the point that the 18th Division is put out of action for the time being in fighting trim.

Unlike this army, the PLAF grow stronger day by day and prove to be ready for a long war and all kinds of operations from commando to large-unit combined actions. They gave a sound beating to half-a-million puppet troops officered by twenty thousand American advisors in the "special war". They have held in check the half-a-million strong US expeditionary - force supported by over half-a-million puppet soldiers and mercenaries from US satellite countries. How can the puppet troops confront them even with the support of from 150,000 to 200,000 GI's?

A Blank Cheque

In his State of the Union message, Nixon sounded an optimistic note: the prospects of a "Pax Americana" were brighter than a year ago. Though he did not do so explicitly he wanted to pay tribute to his "Vietnamization" policy. In his Dec. 15, 1969 speech he quoted the British General Thompson said to be a "counter-insurgency" expert. However, that general had -- served the US aggressors in South Viet Nam under the Democratic administration and his help, how valuable it might be, did not prevent the "special war" from fizzling out. Nixon is -- certainly blinded by his ambitions of neo-colonialist conquest. These induce him to believe in the feasibility of replacing the GI by a puppet soldier and negotiating from a "position of strength" while he is forced to pull US troops out of South Viet Nam.

Time will bring him to his senses;for the time being he continues to draw a blank cheque. The American people are obliged to endorse it with their blood and money. It is therefore up to public opinion in the US and the world to appraise the -- "Vietnamizacion" of the war at its intrinsic value. It will see some illusions beside a lot of lies and bluffs. "Vietnamization" boils down to continuation of US armed aggression, a big swindle against the American people and an intensification of war crimes.

101 ST AIRBORNE DIVISION US

From February to August: more than 7.865 enemy troops wiped out at ABia, 1 battalion annihilated at ESEPIC comp. – 3rd Brigade: twice hardly attacked and gravely damaged at ABia

AMERICAL DIVISION

Beginning Spring 1969, 500 enemy troops wiped out. The H.Q of division, the Hqs of 196th, 198th and 11st brigades destroyed and gravely dameged

6000 enemy troops eliminated in 1st first days of May

196th brigade heavily damaged if west of Tam Ky.

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION US

3rd brigade violently attacked, 1 battalion 8 companies entirely destroyed of Kontum comprising 6.765 enemy troops

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

- The HQ of division at lai khe attacked 6 times
- The HQ of the 1st Brigade at Tech Nich and 5 battalions destroyed and hardly damaged
- Nearly 2000 enemies eliminated at Ben cat, lai Khe and on highway 15

1ST AIR MOBILE CAVALRY DIVISION

- In 2 months of May and June only, 6 battalions, 22 companies annihilated and gravely damaged
- August: 3rd brigade and 2 battalions serrely damaged.

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

3 first months of 1969:
- The HQ of Division and Brigades violently attacked, 7.000 enemy troops killed.
- 6 battalions, 10 companies entirely annihilated.

May and June: Nearly 4000 enemy troops killed

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION US

- The HQ of Division at Binh Duc (My Tho) attacked more than 30 times more than 2000 enemy troops killed
- 7.000 enemy troops diminaled at Nhon Xuyen Canal (Kien Tuong)

1ST AND 3RD MARINE DIVISIONS US

9.150 enemy troops 5 battalions of artillery annihilated, 2 HQs of Division attacked and seriously damaged in 5 first months of 1969

– 2 battalions; 2 HQs of Regiment annihileled and gravely damaged

11ST INDEPENDENT ARMOURED REGIMENT

– May and June oly: 2 battalions annihilated and gravely damaged nearly 300 military vehicles including many tanks and armoured cars destroyed at Binh long
– August: 2 battalions seriously damaged at Binh long

LEGEND

- 1 — Particular badge of each american division
- Areas where the PLAF attacked violently and recorded brilliant victories
- The victorious combats of PLAF
- Enemy air field attacked several times
- Harbours attacked and destroyed
- Commication lines attaked and cut off
- Convoys of armoured vehicles destroyed
- Ammunition and fuel depots attacked many times

S O U T H V I E T N A M

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